FBIS DAILY REPORT

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TUNIS: ARAB LEAGUE POSTPONES MEETING ON QAFSAH ATTACK

LD151148 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 15 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tunis--It has been learned that contacts and consultations are taking place among the Arab states with a view to fixing a new date for the emergency session of the Arab League Council--which was initially scheduled for tomorrow--to examine the complaint of the Tunisian republic following the aggression on the town of Qafsah.

This postponement might have been decided on by a number of Arab states [words indistinct]. It is believed that the proposed new date is Tuesday, 26 February.

BULGARIAN DAILY INTERVIEWS PFLP'S GEORGE HABASH

AU121055 Sofia OTECHESTVEN FRONT in Bulgarian 8 Feb 80 p 4 AU

[OTECHESTVEN FRONT representative interview with George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP): "The Palestinian Revolution Will Prevail"--no time or place given]

[Text] A representative of the OTECHESTVEN FRONT editorial office has met with the well-known Palestinian public and political figure and had talks with him.

[Question] Comrade Habash, recently an intensification has been noted in the U.S. efforts to increase its influence in the Middle East and to divert the attention of the Arab peoples from their struggle for liquidating the consequences of the Israeli aggression and As-Sadat's policy of capitulation. In this connection, will you discuss in more detail the latest efforts of the U.S. Middle East policy?

[Answer] The U.S. policy in the Middle East is actually an indivisible part of imperialism's general policy of aggression. We, in the Middle East, have recently witnessed an intensification of Washington's aggressive policy aimed against the forces of peace, progress, socialism and the national-liberation movements on a worldwide scale.

We have noticed an escalation in the U.S. imperialist activites that has resulted in increased military budgets and rearmament. A basic point in the Carter-Brzezinski policy was the NATO resolution approved at its New York session in May 1977. NATO's decision to increase its budget and to intensify its aggressive policy against the socialist countries was also approved at that time. Following this, the U.S. plan to stockpile "cruise" missiles and "Pershing" missiles in some Western countries--and thus place the socialist countries within the range of the U.S. nuclear arsenal--was also activated.

Imperialism focused its plans on our area, particularly after the downfall of the Shah's regime, because of the Middle East's specific conditions, its significance, (especially in its geostrategic location) and its oil resources. Washington understood that one of its most important mainstays was threatened. This explains why the conspiracies and intrigues have begun to intensify. President Carter has also visited the area. Through the Israeli-Egyptian treaty, he tried to give an impetus to certain basic points connected with the implementation of the Camp David agreements. The real intention, however, is to strengthen U.S. positions there by establishing new bases with the purpose of inflicting blows on the struggle of the masses and the national liberation movement. The intention of the architects of this plan was to put this area under their guardianship and full control so that they can guarantee their oil and other interests.

At the same time, we can see how U.S. imperialism and the Egyptian regime are pursuing joint machinations while Tel Aviv openly "acclaims" the U.S. desire to make use of the Israeli air force and naval bases for its purposes. While relying on the Begin-As-Sadat-Carter alliance, the U.S. imperialism strives to achieve its basic tasks in this area. The main goal of this alliance is to inflict a blow on the Palestinian revolution. We felt this clearly in 1979, because there was an obvious escalation of the attacks on the Palestinian revolution. A policy that we could term a "scorched earth policy" is being pursued against us and Lebanon. I have in mind here Israel's constant attacks on the Palestinian resistance movement, the refugee camps in Lebanon and the national progressive movement. The building of new militarized settlements in the occupied territories has continued. The Zionists have made every possible effort to demoralize our people in the occupied territories so that they can force the Palestinians to participate in the conspiracy for so-called autonomy. More than anything, however, we are pleased to note that the Palestinian revolution has succeeded in foiling the intentions of imperialism in Lebanon.

Together with the Lebanese progressive movement, we have succeeded in prevailing against and firmly resisting the fierce military attack. Our revolution continues its armed struggle and has united with the Lebanese fighters.

[Question] Comrade Habash, the United States and its Western allies have recently fanned a fierce anti-Soviet campaign in which they are trying to involve the Arab peoples. How do you assess the plans of U.S. imperialism, which aims at fanning hatred in the Islamic world against the Soviet Union and at driving a wedge between the Arab peoples and the countries of the socialist community?

[Answer] As a result of the confrontation between the United States and the Iranian Revolution, the peoples and countries of the Middle East began to condemn U.S. policy more intensely. Imperialism began to understand that it was in real trouble as a result of its being condemned by the masses of this entire area. We are well aware of the fact that imperialism will continue to defend its interests and will find ways of using the developments in Afghanistan as an opportunity to divert the mass revolutionary upsurge in the Arab world and the Middle East in another direction.

Under the leadership of their vanguard, the Afghan masses carried out a national democratic revolution in April 1978. Afterwards, imperialism began to mobilize the counterrevolutionary forces in the country and oriented them toward constant attacks on the revolution. Imperialism continues to follow this road. It is only natural that Afghanistan called on its international allies for help. We actually look upon the USSR's role in support of the Afghan revolution as a part of its international obligation to support the masses. The White House's attempts to depict the Soviet aid and support for the revolution as interference in Afghanistan's domestic affairs and as a position of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries aimed against the people and their Islamic religion, are obvious. Imperialism is aware of the importance of the religious factor in our Arab world, in the Middle East and in the other countries of the Third World. It attempted to conceal the true nature of its aggressive policy with a view to fooling the great masses of the people and sowing hatred against the Soviet Union. The progressive forces in this area, however, will under no circumstances permit this kind of conspiracy to be successful. We will unmask this plan to the Palestinians and to the other Arab peoples who are well aware of who the forces of aggression are and what their goals are in this area.

Our people are well aware that U.S. imperialism supported the Zionists in expelling and persecuting us. We, the Palestinians, know very well that in our struggle we received assistance from the USSR and all socialist countries. The Iranian people are also well aware of who it was that supported the shah's regime and who the forces are that are now browbeating their revolution. They are also aware of who their friends are that are struggling shoulder to shoulder with them.

When the United States tried to make the Security Council impose sanctions against Iran, the USSR vigorously opposed this and thus frustrated the plan against the Iranian revolution and the Iranian people. By unmasking the imperialist plans to the vast strata of the people in this area, by mobilizing all progressive forces in the struggle against imperialism, Zionism and reaction, by deepening the cooperation between the national and progressive forces, by deepening the alliance between the Palestinian resistance and the progressive Lebanese national patriotic movement and all progressive forces in the Arab world, by strengthening our alliance with the Afghan revolution and with Iran, and by deepening our relations with the socialist countries and the Soviet Union, we will succeed in foiling the plans of U.S. imperialism and unmasking its false appeals for the unification of the Islamic countries on an anti-Soviet basis.

[Question] What would you like to wish to the Bulgarian people, who have always been in the vanguard of the forces supporting the struggle of the peoples for national liberation and whose sympathy lies with the just struggle of the Arab people of Palestine for the restoration of their irrevocable national rights, including their right to self-determination and establish an independent state of their own?

[Answer] I am dutybound to express deep gratitude for the aid which our people and revolution are receiving from the People's Republic of Bulgaria and from the BCP. I also express deep gratitude for the moral, political and other support. We are well aware of the fact that we enjoy the best friendly feelings of the Bulgarian people.

We convey best wishes and gratitude, because, with the support we receive from Bulgaria, the socialist countries and the Soviet Union, and also from the international progressive movement, we will become a serious power that will win the struggle with imperialism, Zionism and reaction.

ABU MAYZHR DISCUSSES PALESTINIAN, LEBANESE ISSUES

JN141120 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 12 Feb 80 p 12 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, PLO official spokesman, has reiterated that the Palestinian people, led by the PLO, are resolved to confront all plots concocted against them. The Palestinian people, Abu Mayzar added, will work tenaciously to thwart all of the imperialist-Zionist schemes aimed at liquidating the just Palestinian cause.

Abu Mayzar held a press conference yesterday, outlining the Zionist authorities' facist and racist practices in occupied Palestine, particularly in Hebron. He emphasized that such practices will only result in furthering our people's steadfastness and in motivating all their patriotic forces.

Asked about the lack of confidence crisis between the PLO and the Lebanese authorities, Abu Mayzar said that this crisis can only be resolved if the Lebanese Government honors the Riyadh resolutions, as well as those of the Cairo, Baghdad, Tunis and Bayt ad-Din summit conferences.

Abu Mayzar expressed his regret that the Lebanese Government has not taken a single step toward implementing these resolutions. He added: For our own part, we have repeatedly declared our readiness to cooperate with the Lebanese Government in implementing these resolutions.

Asked about the PLO's status in the Lebanese arena following recent developments, Abu Mayzar said that the principal contradiction in Lebanon is represented by the Zionist occupation of some parts of southern Lebanon and by the Israeli threats and troop concentrations on the northern front. The PLO, Abu Mayzar added, is well aware of the nature of the Zionist-U.S. plot in Lebanon. Inasmuch as we reiterate our eagerness to preserve Lebanon's stability and to achieve Lebanese national accord, we are resolved to safeguard the legitimate interests of the Palestinian resistance within the framework of the Cairo agreement and its addenda. Hence, we disapproved of the Lebanese Government's decisions, which have ignored the legitimate Palestinian presence.

Abu Mayzar emphasized that all U.S.-Israeli plots in the Lebanese arena are doomed to failure; because the Palestinian revolution will not be alone on the Arab and international levels if battle is imposed upon it.

Commenting on the position that some Arab countries consider the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan to be more important than combating the Israeli schemes, Abu Mayzar said that every Arab and every Muslim who believes that the danger threatening the Arabs and Muslims is something other than Zionism, which is supported by the United States, is not serving the real interests of the Arab nation; rather, he is serving U.S. policy, which is organically linked with Zionism and is embodied by the Camp David accords. The real Arab solidarity is that which should be based on resistance to Zionist occupation of the Arab and Palestinian territories and the restoration of the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

PLO'S 'ARAFAT MEETS SOVIET ENVOY IN BEIRUT 14 FEB

NC141543 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1515 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] At noon today brother Abu 'Ammar received the Soviet ambassador to Lebanon. Brother Abu Jihad, Fatah Central Committee member and Al-'Asifah General Command member, attended the meeting.

Our correspondent has learned that brother Abu 'Ammar has sent a message to the Soviet leaders. The conferees also discussed the latest developments in the Arab area.

PLO OFFICIAL MEETS FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO LEBANON

JN141759 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 14 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Beirut, 14 February--Abu Ja'far, director of the PLO Political Department, today met with French Ambassador to Lebanon Delamare.

The Palestine news agency (WAFA) reports that the Palestinian and French officials reviewed the situation in Lebanon, the developments in the Palestine question and bilateral relations.

## OMAN

### MINISTER SAYS GOVERNMENT WILL NOT ACCEPT U.S. FORCES

LD141158 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1115 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Excerpt] Ad-Dammam--'Abd al-'Aziz ar-Rawwas, information minister of the Sultanate of Oman, has denied the presence of American forces in Oman and stressed that Oman does not accept and will not accept having American forces on its territory, and that this a fundamental principle of Omani policy.

In a statement made to AL-YAWM and published today, Ar-Rawwas said Oman's attitude does not differ from that of the other states of the region and that its views on regional security is an integral one and inseparable from that of the member states in the Gulf region.

## PDRY

### PREMIER SEES BOURGUIBA'S SPECIAL ENVOY

LD141618 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, member of the Political Bureau, deputy chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers, has received His Excellency Qasim Abu Sinaynah, personal envoy of Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba, who delivered a verbal message from the Tunisian president on the latest developments in the Arab region.

The meeting was attended by brother Salim Salih, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, and Muhammad 'Abd al-Shattah, PDRY representative at the Arab League and our non-resident ambassador to Tunisia.

## QATAR

### GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS IRAQI NATIONAL ACTION CHARTER

NC141630 Doha QNA in Arabic 0950 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Doha, 14 February--The State of Qatar today welcomed the national action charter announced recently by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

An official statement issued in Doha today said that the State of Qatar supports the principles expressed in the declaration, which confirm the principles of the Arab League charter and the Arab joint defense treaty, as well as the Arab economic cooperation agreement.

"The State of Qatar views the declaration as confirming the main Arab accords which organize relations between the Arab states on the main principles to which we adhere and which should form the basis of these relations in a bid to secure for our Arab nation the conditions for consolidating its security and stability as well as strengthening its solidarity. This solidarity is the most telling weapon in its struggle to confront the challenges and dangers threatening it, to maintain its rights and to realize its common objectives of destiny in building its own strength for preserving its sovereignty and full independence," the statement added.

The State of Qatar expressed appreciation to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for declaring this national charter at a time when the Arab nation is passing through a critical stage. It also expressed hope that the Arab states will manage to take genuine and serious action to realize the cherished goals of dignity, prosperity, and impregnability for the Arabs.

## SAUDI ARABIA

### INFORMATION MINISTER YAMANI SAYS NO FOREIGN BASES IN KINGDOM

NC141231 Doha QNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpts] Doha, 14 February--Saudi Information Minister Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani has stressed that there are no foreign military bases and that there will never be any foreign military bases in Saudi Arabia. He asserted that his country does not at all believe in pacts and blocs.

He expressed regret at what is said from time to time. He referred to reports attributed by certain news agencies to U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown to the effect that Saudi Arabia has agreed to store U.S. arms on its territory. He said: This is not true. Saudi Arabia does not work in the dark and its policy is clear and known.

He also spoke about allegations about the presence of foreign bases in the Sultanate of Oman and other Gulf states. He emphasized that these allegations are false and are part of the tendentious campaign launched against us and of the misunderstanding surrounding this region.

He also said: We are perfectly capable of defending ourselves because we have stable regimes and this stability emanates from the close links between the people and the rulers. There is no hostility between us and anyone else.

He added: Those who always talk about the security of the Gulf and about Gulf pacts know our policy. We are a nation that continues to do its duty without a need for anyone to defend our country or region. We also do not need military pacts.

In a statement to the Qatari paper AR-RAYAH, published today, the Saudi information minister affirmed that the Arab Gulf states information ministers conference held in Doha this week was a complete success.

The Saudi minister again denied hostile reports that foreign military forces from France, or any other country, participated with the Saudi forces in purging the Mecca shrine. He said this report is totally unfounded and was recently denied by the French defense minister himself.

On Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, Dr Muhammad 'Abduh Yamani said the Soviet Union must realize that its intervention in Afghanistan is an aggression against all Muslims and that it will not pass easily.

He said the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in cooperation with the Islamic states, will continue to provide aid for the Muslims in Afghanistan to help them regain their rights and defend themselves and their country. He added: We and the free people of the world, especially the Muslims and Arabs, will not keep quiet about the aggression in Afghanistan.

U.S. ENVOY MCHENRY, AS-SADAT MAKE STATEMENTS AFTER MEETING

NC141346 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] This morning President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat met with the U.S. chief delegate to the United Nations, Donald McHenry. The meeting was attended by the U.S. ambassador in Cairo.

After the meeting, President as-Sadat said he discussed with the U.S. delegate everything related to the region--including matters related to autonomy.

Regarding the settlements, the president said that Egypt had already expressed its opinion in this respect and that Egypt's stand is clear, frank and well known. The president added that this stand was expressed by Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil in his latest statement; and that the prime minister yesterday sent a message to the U.S. secretary of state on this matter.

Concerning the Israeli MAPAM Party's statements on the need for Palestinian recognition of Resolution 242, the president said that there must be a mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinians.

Mr McHenry said he discussed with President as-Sadat the normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations, the autonomy talks and the Israeli settlements issue. Mr McHenry added that the meeting also dealt with events in Afghanistan and Iran. McHenry refused to divulge any details about what was said on these topics.

MENA Report

NC141655 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1640 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 February--At noon today President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat received Ambassador Donald McHenry, the chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations, who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting took place at National Democratic Party headquarters and was attended by Vice President Husni Mubarak and U.S. Ambassador in Cairo Alfred Atherton.

President Anwar as-Sadat welcomed Ambassador Donald McHenry and inquired about his current tour of the Middle East. The chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations answered that the tour is progressing well, that it has been very useful and has provided him with an opportunity to hold a direct dialog with the leaders of the region. He added that his discussions with Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil and with Defense and War Production Minister Gen Kamal Hasan 'Ali were good.

After the 1 and 1/4-hour meeting, Ambassador McHenry said that this meeting provided him with his first opportunity to meet with President as-Sadat and discuss issues within the scope of his responsibility as the U.S. representative to the United Nations. He added: This meeting gave me an opportunity for a fruitful and comprehensive exchange of views. I was very much impressed by President as-Sadat's courage and his comprehensive vision of things. I can say that my first meeting with him has strengthened these impressions and I look forward to several meetings with him in the future.

Asked about the details of the discussions he held with President as-Sadat, Ambassador Donald McHenry said: Throughout my diplomatic career I have always avoided giving details. However, I can say that we discussed the questions of Palestinian autonomy, normalization of Egyptian-Israeli relations and the settlements. He added that the discussions touched on several other topics, particularly Iran and Afghanistan.

Asked whether Israeli-Palestinian mutual recognition was raised during the discussions, the U.S. chief delegate to the United Nations said: Once again, I do not want to give details.

Ambassador Donald McHenry arrived in Cairo yesterday for a 2-day visit to Egypt within his tour of some Middle East states. He has visited Kuwait and Saudi Arabia thus far and he will go to Lebanon, Jordan, Israel and Tunisia after his visit to Egypt.

McHenry Meeting With Ghali

NC142110 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2045 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 February--At noon today Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali received Donald McHenry, the chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations, who is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by Ambassador Ahmad Mahir, Minister Plenipotentiary 'Umar Musa and Minister Plenipotentiary Sa'd al-Fararij.

After the meeting, the minister of state for foreign affairs said that he and the American guest reviewed the situation in the Middle East and the various developments with a view to giving momentum to the autonomy discussions. He added that the discussions also dealt with the role which the United Nations could play in solving the Middle East problem and with the possibility of it playing an intensive role in speeding up a comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem, particularly since such a role has a clear foundation in the Camp David accords. Ghali said the discussions also dealt with the views of both sides on various international issues.

McHenry Press Conference

NC142150 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] The permanent U.S. representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Donald McHenry, has affirmed his country's desire to give momentum to the Palestinian autonomy negotiations in order to attain positive results on schedule. McHenry pointed out that the quest for peace must not be hindered by specific timetables. He added that the negotiations must go on in order to get over the hurdles facing these negotiations. He said these hurdles are not small ones. Donald McHenry confirmed that the United States has committed itself to exerting every effort to establish a comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

Donald McHenry made these statements during a meeting with Egyptian journalists and intellectuals at the American Center in Cairo tonight.

Donald McHenry reaffirmed the U.S. position on the question of the Israeli settlements and on the need to [word indistinct] their establishment. He said that the Middle East question has always been one of the important questions debated at the United Nations and that the UN agenda always includes this question and other subsidiary issues, such as the settlements and others.

COMMITTEE ON NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS MEETS UNDER 'ALI

NC131418 Cairo MENA in English 1357 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb 13 (MENA)--The committee on the normalisation of relations between Egypt and Israel held an enlarged meeting here today under Minister of Defence and Military Production General Kamal Hasan 'Ali. The meeting was attended by Ambassador at the Foreign Ministry Major General Taha al-Majdub, acting Director of Military Intelligence Major General Labib Sharab, Secretary General of the Defence Ministry Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah, head of the Liaison Office Brigadier Muhsin Hamdi and representatives of the various ministries concerned with the normalisation process, namely the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Interior, Tourism, Civil Aviation, Health and Culture.

MENA learnt that the defense minister issued instructions to the representatives of the various ministries to define the functions of the committees during the normalisation process.

The meeting followed the visit paid by Major General al-Majdub to Israel following which he presented a report to the defence minister on the outcome of his talks and contacts with Israeli officials concerning steps for the normalisation of relations between the two countries.

SITE OF TRIPARTITE MEETING STILL UNDECIDED

NC141502 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1444 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 February--MENA has learned that the venue has not been decided on yet for the tripartite meeting among Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, U.S. presidential Envoy to the Middle East Sol Linowitz and Israeli Interior Minister Dr Yosef Burg. At the conclusion of the eighth round of autonomy talks which were held in Herzliyya, it was announced that the heads of the three delegations will hold a meeting at the end of this month in a European capital.

AUTONOMY TALKS SUBCOMMITTEES CONCLUDE MEETINGS

NC141545 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Excerpt] The two subcommittees stemming from the general committee for Palestinian autonomy concluded their meetings this afternoon at Mena House Hotel in Al-Haram. The two subcommittees will resume their work in Tel Aviv next Monday.

Israeli Delegation Leaves

NC140023 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] The Israeli delegation to the Palestinian autonomy talks left Cairo for Israel this evening. The Israeli delegation was headed by General Tamir.

AL-AHRAM DENOUNCES ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY

NC150825 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 15 Feb 80 NC

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the heading, "The Establishment of Settlements Threatens Israel's Security," AL-AHRAM today denounces the old worn-out ideas that still prevail in certain Israeli ruling circles despite the October War and the visit to Jerusalem.

The paper says that Israel's illegitimate settlements policy is one of these worn-out ideas that could lead to serious results in the area and destroy the colossal efforts exerted in the past few years to encourage the seeds of peace to grow and cover the entire area. This policy will not achieve security for Israel, as it imagines. On the contrary, it threatens Israel's security by increasing tension and weakening the ability of the states in the area to confront outside dangers. Furthermore, this policy is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Camp David agreements and affects the chances for the success of the current efforts--in which Egypt and the United States have cooperated--to establish full autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza. All those who took part in these efforts must take a firm stand in confronting everything that undermines them.

In conclusion, AL-AHRAM affirms that for this reason, when Egypt asks the United States to take a firm stand confronting Israel's illegitimate settlements policy, it is not trying to provoke the United States against Israel but is asking it to exercise its responsibility for trying to prevent Israel from destroying the peace chances through its illegitimate actions and wrong conception.

AS-SADAT MEETS WITH NDP LEADERS 14 FEB

NC141824 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[From the Radio Newsreel]

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat held a meeting today at the National Democratic Party [NDP] club. The meeting was attended by his excellency the vice president, the prime minister, the speaker of the People's Assembly, several ministers, members of the party Secretariat General and members of the parliamentary body.

Our correspondent Salah Radwan reports: [Radwan--live or recorded] At this meeting, the president dealt with two important topics: the first related to domestic affairs and the second to Egyptian-Israeli relations. Concerning domestic matters, the president emphasized that the NDP should work actively in an organized manner to limit price increases. Several members outlined their private solutions to increase productivity in certain agricultural sectors. The code of ethics received some attention during these discussions despite reports that so far the code has only been dealt with by proposals.

Concerning Egyptian-Israeli relations, the debate centered on the Egyptian-Israeli normalization of relations. I have learned that President Anwar as-Sadat will hold weekly meetings similar to that held today to exchange views on the most important issues and his proposals concerning these issues. [end Radwan--live or recorded]

FINANCE MINISTER AFFIRMS NO ARAB ASSETS FROZEN

NC131437 Cairo MENA in English 1330 GMT 13 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, Feb 13 (MENA)--Egypt has not frozen Arab or any other assets and will not take such a measure, according to Minister of Finance Dr 'Ali Lutfi.

In an exclusive interview with MENA, the finance minister pointed out that the flow of funds, both inside and outside the country, is governed by Egyptian laws, foremost among which the Arab and foreign investment law which openly bans freezing or confiscating invested funds.

The minister said that rumours stirred up by some of the Arab countries on the freezing of their assets in Egypt is ungrounded since the agreement concluded stipulates spontaneous renewal of these assets when they become due. He further said that Egypt is currently involved in negotiations with the International Monetary Fund to reach an agreement to regulate the reimbursement of these installments and its due interests on schedule.

The minister of finance added that Egypt will reimburse all installments in due time with hard currency and that the current year's budget allocated more than $1 billion to meet external financial obligations including installments and interests whether it belongs to states, international organizations or companies.

He further added that reimbursement of installments always takes place on the day preceding the scheduled day, a matter which reflects the confidence accorded by the world to the Egyptian economy and which was confirmed during the meeting of the consultative group in Paris last December.

The minister went on to say that the Arab states are raising this issue to jeopardise Egypt's good economic reputation throughout the world, particularly after the failure of the Baghdad summit resolutions in disrupting Egypt's economic reputation in spite of the boycott and the stoppage of Arab aid.

IRAQI STUDENTS URGE FREEZE OF IRAQI FUNDS IN EGYPT

NC141525 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1309 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Cairo, 14 February--The Iraqi Student Union in Cairo has affirmed its appreciation of President as-Sadat's stand toward the Arab nation and his support of the Arab issues. The union denounced the Ba'thist regime that is stifling the Iraqi people and called on Egypt to freeze Iraqi assets in Egyptian banks so that these assets can eventually be used for the benefit of the Iraqi people.

Here is the text of the Iraqi Student Union message to President Anwar as-Sadat:

The Iraqi Student Union and the free Iraqi men residing in the Arab Republic of Egypt wish to express to your excellency their appreciation of and pride in your affirmation that Egypt will maintain its steadfast position toward the Arab peoples, support their issues and help those helpless peoples rid themselves of the calamities represented by their regimes in order to achieve their desires and hopes. Allow us to enlighten your excellency on the following points:

Your Excellency must be aware--along with the Arab Egyptian people, the Arab people and the whole world--that the current Ba'thist regime in Iraq does not represent a legal authority, does not possess a constitutional legality and has not been elected by the people.

This regime is represented by a bunch of racist gangsters who assumed power by means of a dubious military coup led by British intelligence in 1968. Since that date, no constitutional institutions have been established and parliamentary activities are nonexistent.

Since the Ba'thist gang assumed power in Iraq, they have been using the most cruel methods of personal elimination, torture, internment and persecution. These methods, which surpass human endurance and violate all values and laws, have enabled the current regime to humiliate the citizens, take away their rights and squander the country's wealth and resources on the regime's self-indulgence and on its plans to encourage international terrorist gangs.

All international human rights organizations have denounced this regime for its practices and methods and have placed it at the top of the list of regimes that persecute their citizens on their own territory. These organizations have also unearthed the Iraqi regime's crimes and practices.

The demand by the ruling gang in Iraq to withdraw some of their assets in Egyptian banks should be considered null and void because these assets are the property of the Iraqi people, who did not, in fact, elect this ruling bunch but are striving to topple it and remove its nightmarish presence.

The Iraqi Student Union, which is the legitimate representative of our student masses and the struggling Iraqi masses, considers it to be its duty--a duty dictated by its holy national tasks--to ask Your Excellency to freeze these assets and deprive the Iraqi regime of the opportunity of obtaining these assets, using them for their well-known practices and depriving the Iraqi people of even more than they have already been deprived.

The Iraqi Student Union will work with other Iraqi organizations and revolutionary movements to present its case to just Egyptian law and international bodies so that these assets can be diverted for the benefit of the Iraqi people's representatives within the framework of the Arab and Islamic league--if such a league is formed--or any other framework that will serve the people's interests and aspirations.

AMMAN PAPER: EGYPTIANS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST U.S. PRESENCE

JN141814 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 14 Feb 80 pp 1, 14 JN

[Text] Cairo--Egypt's Qina Province was the scene of raging demonstrations yesterday in protest against U.S. bases, airfields and troops in the Qina area. Thousands of citizens demonstrated in the streets, shouting slogans against As-Sadat's decision to provide U.S. forces with military bases and banning citizens from approaching the Qina Valley area.

The demonstrators raised placards denouncing As-Sadat's capitulatory stands and his scorn of the Egyptian people. The placards read: "We shall not accept a new occupation. The United States is occupying Qina."

Reports from the Qina area mention that the Egyptian central security forces confronted and clashed with the demonstrators in an attempt to disperse them. Many from both sides were wounded in the process. The reports add that hundreds of citizens have been arrested and the entire area encircled by troops to prevent the recurrence of a similar upheaval. It was also decided to impose a curfew in the cities where demonstrations occurred.

STATEMENTS ON VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT'S VISIT STRESS COOPERATION

Press Statement

JN141322 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1220 GMT 14 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 February--Iraq and Venezuela have affirmed the importance of promoting and bolstering bilateral relations, based on respect, mutual interest and noninterference in internal affairs, in the interest of the two countries people.

This came in a press statement issued today at the end of the Venezuelan President's visit to Iraq.

The statement says the talks between President Saddam Husayn and Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins dealt with bilateral relations and ways of developing them on the basis of respect, mutual interest and noninterference in internal affairs, in the interest of the two countries peoples.

The talks also dealt with regional and international issues of common concern, in the wake of recent international developments, and with bilateral cooperation and coordination in OPEC.

The statement pointed out that the Venezuelan President invited President Saddam Husayn to visit Venezuela and that the invitation was gladly accepted, the date of the visit to be specified later.

Departure Statement

JN141323 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 14 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 February--Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins has affirmed that Iraq and Venezuela are in agreement on defending the oil prices, in the interest of the developing states.

In a statement made prior to his departure, the Venezuelan president stressed the need for OPEC to give special attention to the issue of inflation, which is exported by the industrial states to the developing states, in order to steer these states clear of the harms caused by this policy to their price structure, economic activities and development plans.

The Venezuelan president reiterated President Saddam Husayn's call for a dialog between the oil-producing and oil-consuming states, in order to thoroughly study the two groups problems, including raw materials, trade exchange, monetary factors and other economic activities, in addition to the energy issue.

The Venezuelan president pointed to the need for the OPEC strategic committee to accelerate its study of the future in terms of energy and the situation in the international market, so that the market can be stabilized and the flow of energy in international markets maintained for a longer period.

The Venezuelan president described President Saddam Husayn's pan-Arab announcement as significant, adding: I believe that any announcement aimed at keeping the developing states free of international problems is a positive stand.

The Venezuelan president pointed out that his talks with President Saddam Husayn were positive and fruitful, adding that they will contribute to strengthening the relations of amity already existing between the two states.

In conclusion, the Venezuelan president expressed his thanks for the great hospitality accorded him and his accompanying delegation during his visit to Iraq.

BA'TH OFFICIAL RECEIVES YUGOSLAV PARTY LEADER

JN141432 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 14 February--Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command and officer in charge of the Foreign Relations Bureau, this morning received Trpe Jakovlevski, the executive secretary of the Presidium of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY].

During this meeting, they discussed relations between the LCY and the Ba'th Party and ways of developing these relations to serve both countries and to strengthen the joint struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

They also affirmed the need for continuous visits between both parties. International current events of interest to both countries were also discussed.

JAMAICAN PEOPLE'S NATIONAL PARTY SECRETARY DEPARTS

JN150834 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 15 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 15 February--Dr Duncan, general secretary of the Jamaican People's National Party, left Baghdad this morning with his accompanying delegation following a 5-day visit to Iraq.

During his visit, Dr Duncan held talks with officials in the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command and with several other officials for the purpose of bolstering Iraqi-Jamaican party and official relations.

The Jamaican official described his talks as successful and fruitful, adding that they will contribute to furthering the scope of bilateral cooperation.

AL-HUSS COMMENTS ON DAMASCUS VISIT, RIZQ KIDNAPING

NC141812 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] President Sarkis held a meeting today with Prime Minister al-Huss, foreign minister Fu'ad Butrus and the two members of the government delegation [to the Damascus talks] Minister Joseph Skaf and Minister Butrus Harb. During the meeting they reviewed the results of the Lebanese-Syrian talks and what the officials will do in the light of the talks. They also acquainted themselves with the latest available information on the kidnaping of Deputy Rizq, on who carried out the kidnaping and on the current contacts that are aimed at securing his release. After the meeting, Prime Minister al-Huss made a statement in which he said: At the meeting discussion centered on the results of our visit to Damascus yesterday. As a result of the discussions, it has been decided to invite the Cabinet to hold a special meeting on Saturday morning to discuss these results and to program the government's action in this phase, particularly in the sphere of achieving national detente and establishing a comprehensive security plan. Prime Minister al-Huss added: We also discussed the general security situation in the country in the light of yesterday's incidents. Contacts have taken place on the case of the kidnaping of Deputy Edmund Rizq and on the current efforts to secure his release now that we have been reassured that he is safe.

SARKIS RECEIVES PHALANGIST DELEGATION ON KIDNAPING

NC141826 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] President Sarkis received a Phalangist Party delegation this afternoon. The delegation included Deputy Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil, Deputy Dr George Sa'adah and Mr Joseph Sa'adah. The delegation reviewed with President Sarkis the kidnaping of Deputy Edmund Rizq and its implications.

Sham'un Statement on Incident

NC141304 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Former President Camille Sham'un telephoned former President Franjiyah in Zgharta today concerning the kidnaping of Deputy Edmund Rizq and the need to release him. In a press statement, Sham'un voiced his regret over the painful incident saying: We discussed the stand we must adopt regarding such incidents and the need to put an end to them. We want to open a new page for the Lebanese and for all parts of Lebanon. In answer to a question, Sham'un said that it has been confirmed that Deputy Rizq is in Zgharta and we are holding contacts concerning this matter.

PRIME MINISTER RECEIVES PALESTINIAN DELEGATION

NC142015 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Lebanese-Palestinian relations were discussed at a meeting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss held at his house in Ad-Dawhah tonight with a delegation representing the Palestinian resistance and consisting of Salah Khalaf, alias Abu Iyad, and Khalil al-Wazir, alias Abu Jihad. The general situation was also reviewed at this meeting.

PLO'S ABU IYAD EXPRESSES REGRET AT ATTACK ON BARRACKS

NC141624 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] PLO official Abu Iyad has blamed some groups foisted on the Palestinian revolution and working for some Arab intelligence organs for the recent attacks on Henry Shihab Barracks and the officers quarters. He expressed regret for such exceptional practices.

He said: If we have reservations regarding some army commands, these reservations do not justify attacks on officers and soldiers who are part of us and we of them. What took place yesterday is an unethical act by groups which are considered to belong to the National Movement and the Palestinian revolution. Abu Iyad denied newspaper reports about a Palestinian initiative to facilitate the convening of a summit meeting between President Sarkis and Abu 'Ammar. He said: There are negotiations between all the security forces in order to avoid any explosion that would bring about a resumption of the fighting in Lebanon. Abu Iyad expressed his view on the Lebanese detente. He supported the statement which was released on behalf of the National Movement, considering it a sound basis for national detente and for a formula for coexistence between the Palestinian revolution and the official authority in Lebanon.

VOICE OF HOPE: LEBANESE ARMY COMMANDER ASKS FOR ISRAELI SUPPORT

NC150703 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 15 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Sources close to Major Haddad have said that Major Haddad had received a message from Gen Victor Khuri requesting that the Israel Defense Forces lend the Lebanese Army effective support in case of a clash with the Syrian forces. Major Haddad has communicated this request to the responsible quarters in the Israeli Army, which are currently studying it. It is believed that the request will be approved.

BEIRUT RADIO REPORTS ON SECURITY SITUATION IN NATION

NC131228 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] The situation continued to deteriorate in the northern area due to continuing fierce clashes this morning. Shells of various caliber from field guns and mortars fell in the contact areas particularly in Qnat, Dayr Billa, Darya, Shibtin and elsewhere. Some shells fell in the villages of Ammun and (At-Turakiz) in Al-Kurah district. The sound of the shells was clearly heard in Tripoli in the morning. The exchanges diminished just before noon. Schools remained closed in the area and an atmosphere of caution prevailed in the areas adjacent to the contact lines and there was hope that calm would return to the districts of Basharri, Al-Batrun and Al-Kurah. At the same time, efforts are being exerted to contain the deterioration in the security situation.

A report from our Tripoli correspondent indicates that Gendarme Corporal Muhammad Tabbarah died today as a result of serious wounds he sustained in an accident yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Fu'ad Shihab Bridge road in the center of Beirut continued to be cut off today because of sniper fire. Complete calm has prevailed in the capital and the suburbs in the wake of the efforts that were exerted to contain the incident at the Henry Shihab Barracks which took place yesterday afternoon.

Voice of Lebanon Report

NC141547 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1515 GMT 14 Feb 80 NC

[Text] At 1545 today, the Syrian, Palestinian and leftist forces opened medium and heavy machinegun fire on eastern areas in Al-Jummayzah, As-Sayfi and At-Tabariz. Rockets fell on the area as well. The shelling diminished around 1610. Reports from the north indicate that the security situation is still tense in the area and that the villages of Qnat, Mazra'at Bani Sa'b, Mazra'at Ktab, Hirbin, Riha, Dary Billa, (Kafr Hiba) and Bayt Shlala are being subjected to artillery shelling. Meanwhile, Syrian reinforcements have been seen in the Tall Kalakh area [moving] from Al-Biqa' toward the north. In the capital, vehicles belonging to the Palestinian resistance and the National Movement have been seen in some of the streets in Ash-Shiyah, Al-Ghubayri and Burj al-Barajinah. A mobile barrier manned by armed followers of the deserter officer, Ahmad al-Khatib, has been seen in front of Beirut central prison. They were searching passersby.

HUNGARIAN PEACE COUNCIL HOLDS TALKS IN DAMASCUS

JN151125 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 13 Feb 80 pp 1, 7 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus--The first round of talks between the Hungarian Peace Council [HPC] delegation and the Syrian peace partisans movement Central Council delegation was held yesterday morning in the Ba'th Party National Command premises. The Hungarian side was led by Secretary General Sebestyen, and the Syrian side was led by Comrade George Saddiqni, Ba'th Party National Command member and the council's chairman.

The two sides reviewed the events and current developments in the Middle East area and their impact on the international situation. They strongly condemned the Camp David accords and the self-rule plot, as well as the gravity of the normalization of relations between the Egyptian regime and Israel.

The Syrian and Hungarian sides outlined the dangers for the Arab nation, the area's peoples and the issue of peace and security in the entire world resulting from the new U.S.-Israeli-Egyptian alliance.

The two sides denounced the alliances and military bases that are being set up by U.S. imperialism in collusion with the Zionist enemy, the Egyptian regime and those panting behind them. They also denounced the fabricated uproar on the situation in Iran and Afghanistan. This uproar is an integral part of the U.S. imperialist schemes to subjugate the area to U.S. influence.

Addressing the session, Comrade Sebestyen denounced all the U.S. plots and provocative acts in the area. She said: Our people highly appreciate Syria's principled and firm stand, led by the Ba'th party and its leader, Comrade President Hafiz al-Asad. This stand, she added, enjoys the appreciation of all progressive forces in the world for its struggle against U.S. imperialism and Zionism.

Comrade George Saddiqni praised the HPC's stand in support of the Arab people's struggle, which is aimed at liberating the occupied Arab territories and guaranteeing the national rights of the Palestinian people.

Comrade Saddiqni then explained the plots, provocations and intrigues that are being hatched by U.S. imperialism, Zionism and As-Sadat in an effort to dominate the area and to strike at the liberation movements in it, in order to entrench the Zionist occupation of the Arab land, annex them to Israel and exploit the Arab homeland's resources.

Comrade Saddiqni praised the socialist countries' stand, led by the Soviet Union, in supporting and backing the Arab struggle to liberate the occupied Arab land and to guarantee the national and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish their independent state in Palestine.

PRESIDENT AL-ASAD RECEIVES LEBANESE PRIME MINISTER

JN131634 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received at 1630 today Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss. The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Deputy Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces and Defense Minister Gen Mustafa Talas and Education Minister Muhammad Najib as-Sayyid Ahmad. On the Lebanese side the meeting was attended by Defense Minister Joseph Skaf and Butrus Harb, minister of national education and fine arts and minister of public works and transport.

Departs Syria

JN132020 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss at 1630 today.

The talks dealt with the entire situation in Lebanon and particularly with the importance of achieving national accord in the fraternal country. The president stressed Syria's concern for Lebanon's security. During the talks, there was agreement that national accord will facilitate state security in Lebanon.

Regarding the redeployment of the Syrian forces that are operating within the Arab Deterrent Forces, the president affirmed that this action has special factors that are linked to the regions entire circumstances and that redeploying the forces will help all those concerned in Lebanon to enhance the process of Lebanese national accord, which will in the end facilitate the security process. Thus, he said, the redeployment of the forces can be of positive value.

The talks also dealt with direct measures. It was stressed that in order to get effective and guaranteed results from these measures, these measures must be agreed on within Lebanon.

Dr Salim al-Huss and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus this evening after a 1-day visit to Syria. During the visit, he held talks on the current situation in Lebanon. Dr al-Huss and his delegation were seen off at the airport by Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm, Deputy Commander in Chief of the Army and Armed Forces Gen Mustafa Talas and Minister of Education Muhammad Najib as-Sayyid Ahmad.

In reply to a question posed by journalists on the results of the talks, Prime Minister Dr 'Abd ar-Ra'uf al-Kasm said: The talks were frank and positive. We hope that these talks will solve all pending problems.

In reply to another question on the new steps taken, Dr al-Kasm said: Lebanon will take several steps that will help solve the Lebanese crisis.

DELEGATION RETURNS FROM IRANIAN CELEBRATIONS

JN131142 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 13 Feb 80 JN

[Text] The Syrian delegation led by Awqaf Minister Dr Muhammad al-Khatib returned to Damascus after having participated in the celebrations marking the first anniversary of the success of the Islamic revolution in Iran and the return of the national leader Ayatollah Khomeyni to Iran.

TISHRIN PRAISES IRAN, CRITICIZES U.S., AS-SADAT

JN150755 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Feb 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "Damascus and Tehran: Friendship and Cooperation for the Sake of Jerusalem and the Future," the newspaper TISHRIN publishes the following comment:

The strong relations binding the Arabs to the Iranians are the fruit of our country's practices and stands. Our practices and stands have always been devoted to safeguarding the nation's interests and struggle and to maintaining evenhanded balances whenever developments, events and trends arise.

The paper adds: When the Iranian Revolution and its fabulous victory took many people--great and small--by surprise, and when this revolution was faced with various steps, confused stands and deviate visions and concepts, Syria was the first to embark on a course or support and welcome for the Iranian Revolution.

When suspicious hands and ignorant tongues and those who pretended to be ignorant tried to drive a wedge between the Iranian Revolution and its Gulf state neighbors, Syria hastened to clarify, rectify and restore matters to normal between the Arabs and Iran, which are linked by brotherhood, friendship, joint interests and struggle to liberate the Al-Aqsa mosque, which is occupied, usurped and captured by their common enemy.

We welcomed Iran, its people and revolution, as an ally to offset the losses we sustained as a result of the Camp David plot and to intensify our steadfastness in facing the chapters of this continued plot. We hope that a similar revolution will take place in Arab Egypt, to wreck the small shah there. The Egyptian people are no less eager for their dignity, role, land, future and holy places than the Iranian people. As-Sadat, despite the U.S.-Zionist support and despite his measures, cannot protect his hireling regime and role.

TISHRIN asserts that Syria's persistence in maintaining strong relations and friendship with the Iranian Revolution, which is struggling against imperialism and Zionism, will remain equal to this revolution's persistence in preserving strong relations with Syria, which is struggling to liberate the occupied Arab territories and wreck the Camp David plots.

## LIBYA

### ARRIVAL OF PDRY DELEGATION IN TRIPOLI REPORTED

LD142026 Tripoli JANA in English 1920 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli, Feb 14, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Mr 'Ali Nasir Antar the defence minister and member of the Political Bureau of the Socialist Party of South Yemen arrived in Tripoli today.

He was given an official reception at his arrival which was attended by Brigadier 'Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir the general commander of the armed forces, a number of army officers, the S. Yemeni ambassador to the Jamahiriyah the general manager of Tripoli airport and a representative from the Protocol Department of the Foreign Secretariat.

He said our visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah comes within the framework of the consolidation of brotherly relations between our people who are struggling for the unity of the Arab nation and against imperialism. Our visit stems from our joint belief in the continued exchange of views to achieve and strengthen the unity of Arab revolutionary force.

He affirmed that the viewpoints are identical particularly regarding struggle against the Zionist enemy and the treasonous conspiracy of Stable David which deny our Palestinian Arab people their independent state. He said: Carry the greetings of our Yemeni Arab people to their brother the Libyan Arab people.

Colonel 'Ali Ahmad Nasir Antar was accompanied by a delegation including 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Qadir member of the Central Committee and minister of industry, head of oil and mining department and Mr Taha Hilal director of national oil company.

### FOREIGN SECRETARY RETURNS TO TRIPOLI FROM CHAD

LD141056 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Tripoli--The foreign secretary returned to Tripoli last night at the end of his visit to Ndjamena where he held a series of meetings with Chadian President Oueddei Goukouni and his vice president at which they discussed relations between the fraternal countries and the means that would insure the implementation of the Lagos agreement for national reconciliation in Chad.

The foreign secretary also held a meeting with the Chadian prime minister and with the ministers of defense and the interior at which they reviewed the situation in Chad and the means of strengthening relations between the two fraternal countries.

The Chadian leaders stressed to the foreign secretary their total appreciation to the brother leader of the revolution and to the people of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah for the assistance and backing which they rendered to the people of Chad to achieve national reconciliation and the liberation of Chad from foreign colonialism. The Chadian leaders also underlined their determination to implement the Lagos agreement and to work for the realization of the unity of Chad, peace and security in it, and their determination to achieve the evacuation of the colonialist forces from Chad in accordance with the Lagos agreement.

The foreign secretary stressed to the Chadian leaders the concern of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and its people for the unity, safety and security of Chad and stressed that it would spare no effort in supporting the fraternal people of Chad so that they could achieve their national unity and secure the withdrawal of the colonialist forces from their national territory.

## MOROCCO

### RABAT REPORTS 209 MERCENARY TROOPS KILLED 13 FEBRUARY

LD141328 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

[Text] Throughout the morning of Wednesday, 13 February 1980, the village of Bojadur was subjected to an attack launched by mercenaries in about 200 jeeps. The Royal Armed Forces resisted this treacherous aggression with courage and bravery. In the battlefield the enemy left 209 killed and 40 wrecked military jeeps. Our Royal Armed Forces lost 9 martyrs and 11 others wounded. After the battle our Royal Armed Forces seized a large amount of weapons and ammunition and nine military jeeps.

## SUDAN

### NUMAYRI ADDRESSES SSU CENTRAL COMMITTEE POLITBURO

JN141105 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 14 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 14 February--In the speech he delivered yesterday to the first meeting of the SSU Central Committee Politburo, which is in its fourth session, President Numayri affirmed that entrusting the Politburo members with implementation of its decisions comes with the stage of regional rule in Sudan, which is considered a very critical period.

The president affirmed that throughout the period of its convocation, the third SSU Congress witnessed a democratic dialog characterized by candidness and sincerity, dialog during which efforts were exerted and showmanship manifested, unhampered by any obstacles. President Numayri pointed out that proposals were arbitrated by the congress, which drafted the resolutions, resolutions that should be adhered to both by those who approved and those who objected to them.

The Politburo members were sworn in before the president following the formation of the new Politburo, which took place following the elections held at the beginning of the month, when the SSU National Congress ended its work.

### NUMAYRI REMOVES EIGHT 'TOP OFFICIALS'

LD141512 Addis Ababa Domestic Service in English 1015 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD/EA

[Text] President Ja'far Numayri today accepted the resignation of the president of the high executive council of the southern region. Joseph Lagu asked to be relieved in preparation for regional parliament elections following its dissolution by the president last month. No date has been fixed for the elections. Meanwhile, President Numayri dismissed eight of Sudan's top officials, including the governor and four directors of the central bank. SUNA announced that the move follows President Numayri's recent promise of sweeping political and administrative changes.

VICE PRESIDENT MEETS WITH SUDAN'S AMBASSADORS

JN141448 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1418 GMT 14 Feb 80 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 14 February--Vice President and Minister of Foreign Affairs ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr met here today with Sudan's ambassadors abroad and with the ambassadors working in the Foreign Ministry headquarters in Khartoum.

During the meeting Ar-Rashid at-Tahir Bakr reviewed with them Sudan's foreign policy during the past 2 years and explained in detail Sudan's constant stands in the Arab and African arenas; Sudan's relations with fraternal Arab and African countries; and Sudan's role in the international arena, particularly within the nonalined movement.

TUNISIA

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON QAFSAH AFFAIR

LD141506 Tunis TAP in English 1415 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

["Pool" item]

[Text] Tunis, Feb 14 (TAP)--Meeting Wednesday for examining the consequences of the aggression against Qafsah the National Assembly adopted a motion in which the members of the parliament:

--Strongly condemn this ignoble aggression perpetrated by the Libyan regime against Tunisia and its peaceful people and denounce the odious and vain plots [words indistinct] and openly recognized by the officials of this regime against Tunisia's independence, sovereignty and integrity.

--Bow in respect before Tunisia's martyrs who were the innocent victims of aggression and treachery.

--Express their consideration and esteem to the policemen, the national guards and to the citizens for their heroic stands which removed all illusions to the envious people and nipped the aggression in the bud.

--Assert the nation's firm decision to face all plots and threats of all kinds and its determination to base itself on its unity and on the experience of struggle acquired under the leadership of President Bourguiba in order to take up challenges, frustrate plots and punish any criminal who would try to prejudice Tunisia's sovereignty.

--Support the government in all its stands and measures taken in order to preserve Tunisia's independence and integrity. Furthermore, in front of the stubbornness of the Libyan leaders in taking profit from all occasions in order to (?instigate) troubles and disorder in the Islamic, Africa, Arab, Maghrebian and other countries so as to destabilize their political regimes. Threatening the Tunisian security and that of the Arab world, the African Continent and peace in the world in general, the Tunisian National Assembly invites the international conscience to fully consider the implications included in this aggression, such as the violation of international law and morals and, therefore, inviting it to condemn such an aggression and to be firmly opposed to it so as it would not extend to other areas of the world.

The National Assembly, moreover, adopted a bill relating to the opening of a voluntary national subscription for collecting donations destined to national defence. This bill aims at strengthening the means needed by the national defence particularly after the special circumstances lived by the country.

OAU ISSUES STATEMENT ON TUNISIAN COMPLAINT AGAINST LIBYA

LD141456 Tunis TAP in English 1407 GMT 14 Feb 80 LD

["Aggression Against Qafsah: OAU's Implicit Condemnation of Libya"--TAP headline; "pool" item]

[Text] Addis Ababa, Feb 14 (TAP)--Briefing Wednesday on the OAU board of minister's talks after its meeting in Addis Ababa on the aggression perpetrated against Qafsah, Mr Peter Onu, deputy secretary general and spokesman of the organization, read the following statement:

The board of ministers:

--Took note of the Tunisian communication and of the Libyan answer.

--Shows its deep disquiet at the seriousness of the situation and the risks it includes.

--Reaffirms its attachment to the carrying out of principles of the OAU Charter and particularly those relating to the respect of sovereignty, national independence, territorial integrity and non-interference in internal affairs of member states.

--Charges the chairman of the 34th session of the board of ministers and the OAU secretary general to follow the situation and to work out a report and submit it to the 35th session.

--Invites the chairman of the 34th session and the secretary general of the organization to refer the matter to the acting chairman of the Organization of the African Unity President William Tolbert of Liberia and inform him about the seriousness of the situation so that thanks to his wisdom, he uses his moral and political weight while undertaking his good offices in order to find out a rapid solution to the conflict, a solution which reinforces peace, stability and stability [as received] of the member states.

Before, Mr Peter Onu stated that Tunisia presented a communication on the aggression against the town of Qafsah. He pointed out that the Tunisian delegation exposed the events which took place last January 27 and that it implicated Libya and provided details on this country's assumed responsibility in Qafsah's affair.

In the course of the afternoon session, Mr Mohamed Naceur, social affairs minister and head of the Tunisian delegation delivered a long speech addressed to the council in which he exposed Tunisia's point of view and gave concrete details showing Libya's participation in this aggression.

PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH LIBYA

LD1319Ø4 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1717 GMT 13 Feb 80 LD

[Speech by Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Nouira to a session of the Tunisian National Assembly in Tunis--live]

[Excerpts] With regard to toilers and intellectuals and all those who work hard and produce, perhaps the most resounding call to them is to stress that the present phase is a historical one and extremely grave. It is a phase that requires first and foremost that we rely on ourselves. This is possible only if we rise to the level of collectively accepting sacrifice and showing self-denial, setting aside egoism and foresaking attitudes of [words indistinct] through making excessive claims at a time when the most grave threats loom over the development march--over production, employment and dignity.

Tunisians, let us all proceed on the path familiar to us. Here we produce while others are busy making speeches and hatching harmful and treacherous acts. We are tolerant while others execute those students who refuse to adhere to the contents of a book whose color is well known and [word indistinct]. We resort to political argument with political opponents while others shoot them. [passage indistinct]

Some thought that Tunisia would be easy prey, but Tunisia showed them to be wrong. And the Tunisian people, with all its sections has proved that in time of trial, its unity is above anything else, and that its maturity is stronger than deception and temptation. Tunisia is today experiencing a wave of [word indistinct] and spontaneous solidarity which goes beyond simple sympathy for the victims of aggression and materializes in a collective participation in a national effort aimed at strengthening the defense capability of the country.

The fact is that our nature as a peaceful, (?civilized) people has so far caused us to allocate most of our resources to action for development in order to secure decent living conditions and material and moral progress of man, instead of pushing toward the possession of death instruments that only those who have aggressive intentions or who consider arms as toys in the hands of puppets involved in a game of killing and terror, are keen to accumulate.

Now that all masks have been removed, and because from now on it will be impossible to continue our development march without protecting it with a minimum of defense capability [word indistinct] against threats, it is now our duty to make serious efforts towards strengthening our defense capability. [loud applause] This does not mean only giving importance to the military aspects of the question, to which we are going to insure all the equipment and development we can, but also means dealing with another, no less important weapon: permanent collective vigilance [loud applause], which closes the path to various attempts which may be shamelessly undertaken by a perfidious side who has permitted himself all means including physical elimination and the terrorizing of peaceful people.

While making of vigilance a collective duty in which there is no distinction between anyone or any section of organs and establishments of the people, we urge the youth, and especially our mature university youth to open their eyes to the gravity of the threats which endanger its own future. The fact is that the intentions now completely exposed and which insist on toppling this regime with all its options, principles and development model, these intentions are next aimed at altering our (?present march on the path we chose) and at involving us in the abyss of adventures and (?jungles) of [word indistinct] which cannot offer our youth a [words indistinct].

Despite the fact that our resources are limited, their wise management in an atmosphere of stability and solidarity is likely to guarantee a much better life to our future generations.

We have decided to submit the reports on aggression in Qafsah to the broadest range of the international community: to the Arab League, the OAU and to the Security Council, since the Qafsah operation and the consequences of it do not constitute an internal matter, but an outside aggression that falls under international law. Moreover, it is a part of a series of serious dangers which threaten peace and stability in vast areas of the Arab homeland, Africa and other parts of the world. [applause]

As for the fabrications being spread by the information media of the Libyan regime, we should ask ourselves: Should we give such fabrications more attention than they deserve? They have been exposed to everyone; we know how such fabrications have become a joke.

Recently, the Libyan regime tried once again (?to stake its claim) on the continental shelf; it installed drilling rigs there. The question of the shelf is now before the international court of justice. We have lodged a protest against this new action by the Libyan regime.

Let it be understood by our people that the Qafsah operation was intended as a mere link in a chain of aggressive operations in other parts of our country with the aim of toppling this regime.

Al-Qadhdhafi's expansionist aims are now known to everybody. Such aims were kindled by the so-called Unionist Treaty of 12 January 1974, which he believes gives him the right to own Tunisia. He deemed it time to exercise that right on 27 January--one day before the anniversary of the Prophet's birthday, the holiest Islamic festival. He learned a great lesson, taught to him by the supreme combatant at Palmarium Hall. [applause] The tragedy is that he found some Tunisians whom he could recruit, even against their will, to attain his aim. These hired men were impudent enough to shoulder arms against their own homeland and to kill their brothers. We should deduce the necessary lessons from this aggression, committed by mercenary citizens who sold themselves to a man who is the greatest danger to this region.

You all know the open threats voiced by Al-Qadhdhafi in his recent statement to AFP. He said: We consider the Tunisian regime a contradiction to the popular revolution in Libya. The struggle must go on until the contradiction is removed.

These statements by a semi responsible person who is capable of anything make the situation extremely grave, thus making it inevitable that we be constantly cautious and fully vigilant, ready for all eventualities. But our people should rest assured about our country, as we have confidence in ourselves and our friends. [applause] If there is a fire in the house, the first question should not be: What is the identity of those helping to put it out. [applause] In this respect, I would like to praise the attitudes of some fraternal and friendly countries, including the Kingdom of Morocco, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia [applause], France, the United States [applause], the PRC [applause] and the PLO [applause]. I would like to inform you that the first consignments of defensive means have arrived. [applause] We wanted these to be defensive, not offensive, because we do not harbor malice or expansionist aims.

NORMALIZATION TEAM, AUTONOMY WORKING GROUP RETURN FROM CAIRO

TA142047 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Brig Gen Avraham Tamir, the head of the normalization team, says that the strengthening of relations with Egypt is progressing in accordance with the timetable set and obtaining its objectives in the various spheres. Tamir made the remarks when he returned to Israel, together with several other delegations, who had been in Cairo. The Israeli working group for the autonomy talks also returned on the same plane. The delegation's head, Hayim Kubersky, said that most of the debates had been held in subgroups, in unofficial talks, in order to attain personal contacts. He pointed out that the deliberations had been concentrated and to the point. The Israeli delegation also prevented criticism of the government decision to settle Hebron with Jews.

DATE SET FOR FIRST ISRAEL-EGYPT FLIGHTS

TA142013 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 14 Feb 80 TA

[Text] The head of the aviation links delegation, Ehuo Shilo, said on his return from Cairo that the first regular El Al flight will leave Israel for Egypt on 3 March. [Tel Aviv ITIM at 1910 GMT on 14 Feb 80 reports date as 5 March] Two days later a plane from the special Egyptian company, Lotus, will come to Israel. The aviation links will be direct, via the shortest route, and the flight will last 45 minutes. Shilo added that the Egyptian flight delegation will come to Israel in 3 weeks to sign the comprehensive agreement. His delegation initialed the agreement in Egypt.

MAPAM LEADER SAYS EGYPTIAN PRESS DISTORTS REMARKS

TA151014 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Feb 80 p 3 TA

[Text] Me'ir Talmi, who headed the MAPAM delegation that was hosted by the Egyptian ruling party, complained yesterday about false statements in the Egyptian press, especially in AL-AHRAM, regarding alleged remarks the delegation members made in their talk with the Egyptian president and other Egyptian personalities.

"These papers published remarks we did not make, while remarks we did make were not published at all," Talmi said on the plane returning to Israel. He especially stressed that it is untrue that the delegation members said that the idea to set up an Arab municipality in East Jerusalem is a viable idea. "This is only an example of what they put in our mouths, and today (yesterday), in the concluding meeting with the ruling party's leadership, I said this very openly, and asked the Egyptian press to correct our remarks. I do not know if they will do so."

The MAPAM delegation members were supposed to have a second session with the Egyptian prime minister yesterday, but the meeting was cancelled because Dr Khalil was too busy.

LEBANESE OFFICERS ASK HADDAD TO SEEK ISRAEL'S HELP

TA141603 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 14 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Two senior officers of the Lebanese Army appealed to the commander of the Christian militias in southern Lebanon, Maj Sa'd Haddad, today, asking him to ask the Government of Israel and through it, the Beirut government--to prevent the Lebanese Army from becoming a Muslim army. In southern Lebanon, today was the second consecutive day where tense quiet prevailed. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz telephoned from the north.

[Begin recording] Two senior officers from the Lebanese Army, one of them a lieutenant and colonel and the other a major, today appealed to the commander of the militias, Major Haddad, asking him to ask the Israeli Government to ask the Lebanese Government to prevent the Lebanese Army--consisiting mainly of Christian soldiers--from turning into an army of Muslim soldiers. This stranage appeal from Beirut reached Major Haddad today by a special courier who left Beirut for southern Lebanon this morning. This report, which orginated from one of the commanders of the militias in southern Lebanon, has not been confirmed by any other source. One should note that the Syrian Army is now active in Beirut trying to recruit Muslim soldiers into the Lebanese Army instead of the Christians currently serving in the army. Syria probably intends to transform the Lebanese Army into being pro-Syrian, which will help the Syrians in taking over strategic places in Lebanon without being stopped by the Lebanese Army.

In southern Lebanon, tense quiet prevailed today for the second consecutive day. Many villagers from southern Lebanon arriving in the northern settlements [of Israel] could be observed today near the Good Fence at Metulla. Some of them also came to get medical aid in Israel. So much from the north. [end recording]

EXPERTS NOTE INCREASED DANGER ON LEBANESE BORDER

TA151011 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 15 Feb 80 p 1 TA

[By Ya'aqov Erez]

[Text] Israeli experts have expressed their opinion that the new situation along the Israeli-Lebanese border may lead to an explosion, because of the daily escalations.

This week, the defense minister mentioned that Israel has positioned paratroop, armored and artillery units in this area to prevent any surprise.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF RESOLUTION 242 VIEWED 'GRAVELY'

TA141640 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 14 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Israel regards reports on a possible initiative by European countries [to amend Resolution 242] gravely and with concern. Even though such an initiative has not been officially presented, Israel has already launched diplomatic efforts to foil it. Here is a report by our political correspondent Yosi 'Abadi.

[Begin 'Abadi recording] Even though to date there has not been an official proposal to introduce changes in UN Resolution 242, the Foreign Ministry has already taken measures to foil these intentions.

Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mikha'el Shilo, said today in reply to a question that Israel regards the rumors on such intentions gravely and with deep concern. The Foreign Ministry is making energetic efforts in the capitals of the EEC member countries to prevent an initiative intended to amend Resolution 242. As will be recalled, Israel had in the past emphasized that Resolution 242 is balanced and is unique in being acceptable to all the parties. Thus it served as the cornerstone for all the agreements signed in the region, including the Camp David accords and the peace treaty. Any change in Resolution 242 would tip the balance, Jerusalem emphasized again and would endanger everything that was constructed on it. [end recording]

BEN-ELISAR QUESTIONS U.S. POSITION ON HEBRON

TA15119 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1057 GMT 15 Feb 80 TA

[Text] It is not that the U.S. opinion is not important, but I really cannot understand why U.S. administration officials think they have a right to say where Jews can live and where they cannot. These remarks were made at noon by Dr Eli'ahu Ben-Elisar, Israel's ambassador-designate to Egypt. Our correspondent, Asher Fisch, reported that Ben-Elisar made these remarks in a meeting with foreign press reporters in Israel. He added he would like to reach a situation where Israelis in Egypt will be treated just like everyone else. He added: I do not think it is possible to achieve this at the beginning.

FURTHER DETAILS ON BEGIN-LEWIS-MCINTYRE MEETING

TA161417 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 14 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin today reviewed at great length Israel's defense and economic predicament before Ambassador Samuel Lewis and the head of the White House budgetary division, James McIntyre. Reacting to the letter sent by the U.S. secretary of state, the prime minister said: Anyone who looks at the tiny speck on the map which constitutes Israel understands the security value of the settlements. Our political correspondent, Yosi 'Abadi, reports on the meeting:

[Begin recording] Lewis and McIntyre heard the expanded Israel arguments in the areas of the defense and economy, which are linked to one another. On the one hand, this was in reaction to the letter sent to the prime minister by Secretary of State Cyrus Vance yesterday. And, on the other hand, it was intended to explain to the head of the White House budgetary division Israel's economic needs.

In a question and answer meeting, Mr Begin repeated Israel's security problems in light of the developments in Lebanon, Iran and Afghanistan in detail. Even though he did not refer directly to Hebron or to the secretary of state's letter, the prime minister elaborated on the security needs for settlements and said: It is difficult to see this from a distance, but anyone who sees the little speck on the map which is Israel understands the security value of the settlements.

Israel's economic difficulties were also brought up by Mr Begin: The return of the Sinai oilfields, which would substantially increase Israel's energy expenditures; the heavy price of peace; and the large cost of security. As for inhabiting houses in Hebron, the official reaction to the U.S. protest of this will probably come from the Cabinet. [end recording]

Begin Rejects Settlement Criticism

TA141106 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 14 Feb 80 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Begin rejected the criticism of settlements leveled by the members of the U.S. economic delegation in their meeting. He explained that the settlements play a supreme security role in view of developments such as the Afghanistan crisis, Soviet aid to Syria and Iraq, and the situation in Lebanon. Menahem Begin also gave details of Israel's economic difficulties, pointing out the sacrifices it has made for peace. Among other things the prime minister mentioned the evacuation of the oil fields that had supplied about a quarter of Israel's consumption.

After the meeting the head of the House Appropriations Committee, Robert Giaimo, told our correspondent, Dan Eshel, that the settlements indeed damage Israel in the Congress. But they will not affect the considerations involved in extending U.S. aid.

PERES INTERVIEWED ON LEBANON, DOMESTIC POLITICAL ISSUES

TA140943 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1410 GMT 13 Feb 80 TA

[Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres interviewed by correspondents Nahum Barne'a and Amnon Nadav, moderated by Yitzhaq Golan, on the weekly "Press Conference" program--live]

[Excerpts] [Golan] Mr Peres, again there is tension in the north. What, in your opinion, should be the limits of our restraint?

[Peres] One should distinguish between tension and activities. When there is tension, this requires alertness. If it goes beyond this, only then will we have to go beyond the limit of restraint.

[Golan] Major Haddad has appealed to the prime minister to fulfill his promise to defend the Christian minority. Does this call for...?

[Peres, interrupting] Naturally, Major Haddad is very alert and this is easily understood. However, the judgment has to be cold and objective and if the Christian minority in the south is in danger, we will definitely have to stand by them. I would also refrain from making premature declarations because the problem is not in the declarations; the problem is really to keep your hand on the pulse, to distinguish between a state of alert or tension, to maintain maximum alert in such an event and if something beyond this happens, it is then necessary to react accordingly.

[Barne'a] The Litani operation took place over a year ago. That operation, I think, raised all sorts of second thoughts in Israel regarding our activity in southern Lebanon. What lesson can we learn when things are warming up there again and it is possible that more than just one party is expecting the IDF to enter there?

[Peres] In my opinion regarding Lebanon, the problem of a yardstick is of utmost importance. We must react with restraint. I also remember that only a few months ago when the system was to bomb southern Lebanon every night. People said: Only if we operate this system will infiltration cease and dangers disappear. In fact, the bombings have ended. They have also damaged us--at least in terms of information--and did not change the situation in the field. We must analyze what is really happening in Lebanon. In my opinion there is some criticism of Al-Asad in Syria. They say: You have established a rejectionist front, yet it is disintegrating. On the other hand, As-Sadat, by peaceful ways, has retrieved 80 percent of the area, his world prestige has been increasing, he received a lot of funds. Now, in my opinion, Al-Asad wants to recapture the leadership of the Arab world. This is the central problem as far as he is concerned. At the same time, there is also in him a degree of cautiousness and, as usual, he wants others to do the job for him.

[Nadav] Regarding the issues of the Russian involvement in Syria and in the whole region in general: During your visit to Finland, perhaps during your talks in Europe, have you succeeded in gaining an impression as to the extent of the current and the possible Russian involvement in the area and in Syria?

[Peres] Regarding the Soviet Union's positions, there are at least two explanations: The first--defensive, the other--aggressive. Defensive--that is: The situation in the Soviet Union itself is not particularly rosy. The Soviet Union is undergoing a very serious economic crisis.

After 62 years since the Soviet revolution the Soviets have no bread, no wheat and one cannot fill the stomach with sputniks. On the other hand, it also has grave defense problems: The matter of the PRC for the Soviet Union is a traumatic and very threatening thing. Nor is it clear who are currently the decision-makers in the Soviet Union. It has a very old and ailing leadership. There is probably the beginning of a war for the inheritance in the communist style. That is why the Soviets have been showing activity in all the areas.

I estimate that the Soviet Union's status in Syria is a first rate consideration in the overall Soviet alinement. However, on the other hand, I also estimate that what the Soviets have done in Afghanistan has been too much in terms of world reaction. I do not believe the Soviets would want to simultaneously create another focus where they will receive direct blame. I am not sure Gromyko had initiated the visit to Al-Asad. It is very possible that Al-Asad invited Gromyko. It is not inconceivable that Al-Asad told Gromyko that he was being threatened and wanted to know where the Soviet Union would stand if that materializes. I also assess that the Soviets gave Al-Asad guarantees, the nature and scope of which I do not know.

[Golan] Mr Peres, some think that Elon More was a result of Qadum from the times of the Alinement rule and that the Qiryat Arba' women in the Hebron Hadassah building, as well as the demands for renewed Jewish settlement in Hebron, are a result of Qiryat Arba', which the Alinement began. Why, then, do you object to renewing the Jewish settlement in Hebron?

[Peres] As for the first question, Mr Begin himself was the one to distinguish between Qadum and Elon More. As you will recall when he visited there, he said: No more Qadum's but many Elon More's, because Qadum was in an army camp for a limited time, on a temporary basis. Elon More is an attempt to settle in the heart of Samaria. The final outcome will give proof to the wisdom of the original thought: One wants to enforce the Israeli law on this area, to annex it to Israel, which is something to which we have been objecting. As for Qiryat Arba', at the time I was not among the decision-makers. But I understand that regarding Hebron we have a special opinion in light of what happened there in 1929, after the Jewish inhabitants who lived in Hebron were murdered. Then, in order to make up for the situation that had been created, the Cabinet decided to establish a settlement near a settlement, but under no circumstances not a settlement within a settlement. In other words, a Jewish settlement within an Arab settlement, because this has always been the source of conflicts, has been received as a provocation and will not add anything to neighborly relations. In general, we have not aspired to binational settlements, just as we have not desired a binational state. There were instances where history determined it thus, but to create such a situation a priori would be a mistake.

[Golan] In what sense is Hebron any different from unified and mixed--binational--Jerusalem?

[Peres] The difference is that Jerusalem existed as two parts previously. What changed was its unification. But in Hebron there has not been a Jewish settlement, and even if there had been a Jewish settlement in Hebron at one time, there was once an Arab settlement in Yafo, let us say. Things happened and one cannot all the time progress both forward and backwards in historical matters.

[Barne'a] Mr Peres, if the Labor Party assumes power, will it forsake settlements in sites established by the Likud government? Will you guarantee in advance that it would maintain a certain policy to which it would be committed in the area of settling the territories prior to the elections?

[Peres] Regarding the first question--no.

[Barne'a] It will not remove settlements?

[Peres] It will not remove settlements, but we will announce that the Jewish settlements that will be located in those area which we intend to return within the framework of negotiations for peace with an Arab regime. They will not be under Israeli sovereignty. We have been saying this before. In principle, I cannot say a Jewish settlement cannot, for instance, be in an Arab country or in a Jordanian country, just as there are Arab settlements in the Jewish state. This is not something which runs counter to the nature of peace.

As for the second question, the answer is definitely yes. We will announce in advance--in fact, we announced this before--that we will not establish Jewish settlements in areas densely populated by Arabs.

[Barne'a] If you will allow me to ask another question on this issue: We all know what the population of the Gush Emunim settlements and Qiryat Arba' are like. It is not a population which will live peacefully under Arab sovereignty. If there is a situation in which they say that if sovereignty changes there they would react forcefully, by use of arms, how could you live with that?

[Peres] First of all, I do not believe they would react by force of arms. Secondly, if there is a political agreement there is a political agreement, and every person will decide if he stays there or not. There will probably be some who will decide to stay and there will be some who will decide not to stay. Those who will remain will have to reconcile themselves with the fact that they will no longer be under Israeli sovereignty.

[Barne'a] What do you think about the members of Gus Emunim? Mordekhay Gur [former chief of staff], who is a member of the Labor Party Executive, thinks they are the real Zionists.

[Peres] I think they have a large degree of exaggerated and excessive fanaticism. Nordo I accept the precedence they give to the concept of Judaism. Judaism has never insisted on the geographical and territorial principle come what may--one is even allowed to shut one's eyes and work on the sabbath to put up a settlement where they see fit. I do not accept this interpretation. I have never accepted it. I think that Judaism is a moral tradition with a very deep humanistic inclination and I think that peace is a value in the Jewish conception. And anyone who tries to limit Judaism to the concept of Herut as it was in past times--namely: first of all and primarily territory, in fact territory is everything, only this matters--in my opinion this is an unacceptable interpretation.

[Nadav] Do you not think that your latest statements on the question of the Judaea and Samaria settlements may prevent the NRP from participating in a coalition that you will form, if you are asked to form it?

[Peres] First of all, as a member of the party, I have to think what the Labor Party wants. I cannot sit down and think what the NRP wants. Had I thought about what the NRP wants, I would have been a member of the NRP. A party has to have a political plan. Second, experience has shown that the NRP has been with us in the coalition even though these were our views. The NRP had had two chapters in its history, which are, in effect, two different identities: the NRP which was together with the Labor Party was one kind of NRP, and the NRP with the Likud is a different NRP.

As for Judaea and Samaria, there was an agreement between the NRP and the Labor Party that the Labor Party can hold negotiations with Jordan on a territorial compromise and only if and when we reach an agreement with Jordan will the matter be brought up for the people to decide upon.

[Barne'a] If the Labor Party wins the elections and you form the government, do you rule out the possibility of the Likud--or part of it--joining your coalition?

[Peres] I take into account a possibility that the Likud will not exist. I think the Likud is, in fact, bankrupt. The liberal part of it, which was founded on the economic aspect has been bankrupt economically; and Herut, founded on political ideology, is no longer the same Herut. Therefore, it is their problem, not ours. As for us, we will appear with a plan.

[Barne'a] But after the elections, will you rule them out as partners?

[Peres] If the Likud remains in its present constellation, I do not foresee a possibility of a partnership because they have a political plan which differs from ours, or we have a political plan different from theirs.

[Bane'a] Maybe they will join your political plan?

[Golan] The difference between the two positions is not great....

[Barne'a] Let me tell you why I am asking you, Mr Peres. Mr Weizman has several times not ruled out the possibility that he would be a partner to a coalition with the Alinement after the next elections. Why do you rule it out?

[Peres] First of all, my reply is that if the Likud remains in its present constellation, headed by Mr Begin, with a demand for settlements in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza today and with a demand for the enforcement of the Israeli jurisdiction over Judaea and Samaria, the question is not personal. This is not a beauty pageant. The issue is ideological. There is a basic difference in the Herut's and our ideological conception. We are constantly being asked what the difference is.

The difference is simply this: Herut says that territory is so important that in order to maintain all of it they are prepared to include the addition of 1,200,000 Arabs and endanger Israel's Jewish character. Whereas we say that the character of Israel is so important that in order to maintain it we are also prepared to give up territory. The goal is not to forsake territory. The aim is to maintain Israel's Jewish character. What is Israel's Jewish character? This, of course, is a numerical issue: that we be an absolute majority. Yet it is also a moral issue. We do not want to be the rulers of 1,200,000 Arabs who do not want to be ruled by us. It is also a social matter. We are not interested in a society in which a certain ethnic group does the more menial and less well paid work, whereas another ethnic group--namely us, the Jews--does the better work and a gap is created which will result in bitterness.

If I may add here one thing of which I am certain: the Alinement's view ever since it was established--or the Labor Party or MAPAI, the name makes no difference--has always been: Let our generation face up to all the difficult problems. Let us bequeath a better country, or a better people to the next generation.

[Barne'a] Do you think there is room for peace now within the Labor Party, or do they, in fact, belong to another party?

[Peres] To the best of my knowledge, Peace Now is not a party at all, rather, it is a protest movement. It is not an organized thing. And just as in the Peace Now Movement there are people who are members of the Labor Party, I see no reason why members of the Peace Now could not vote for or join the Labor Party.

[Golan] Mr Peres, it has been reported that the MAPAM delegation which met with the president of Egypt heard rather harsh statements regarding the future and fate of Jerusalem. In fact, the president of Egypt said that he did not think Jerusalem should be repartitioned, yet he expressed an objection to the unification of the city under Israeli control. Yesterday, Yitzhaq Rabin said that in his opinion the issue of Jerusalem can even blow up peace. What is your reply to the problem of Jerusalem?

[Peres] My reply is unequivocal: The unity of Jerusalem under Israeli sovereignty is not negotiable as far as we are concerned. We will not rescind this. As to religious rights or to elections that have to do with religious rights, this can definitely be discussed with the pertinent religions. In general, I do not think any time an Arab leader states something we have to go back on our positions. Why? In all negotiations--and I am not referring this time to Jerusalem--there are opening and final positions. I do not understand why every time someone states something we have to go back on our positions. Why?

[Golan] But the United States, too, is very close to the Arab position on the Jerusalem issue, as it is on other issues relating to Judaea and Samaria.

[Peres] Which means that we will have to have a discussion with the United States, too, and not for the first time.

[Golan] To a distant issue: The issue of the Olympic games has engaged the world and us. In your opinion, should Israel participate; irrespective of the United States? Should it declare its participation or its withdrawal?

[Peres] In my opinion the wisest thing for Israel to declare is that if the Olympic games take place when the Red Army is still occupying Afghanistan, Israel should not participate.

[Nadav] In this program, perhaps we will be so lucky as to get a scoop? When you were in London, King Husayn was also there. You talked a lot in the Socialist International about the Jordanian option. Were there any contacts?

[Peres] There certainly have been contacts between King Husayn and many leaders of the International, and I mean chiefly...

[Barne'a] In the last few days?

[Peres] In the last few days, too. I went chiefly to persuade the heads of the International to diverge from the abortive PLO line to openness toward the Jordanian option in which, in my opinion, is the main chance for the continuation of the peace negotiations. I feel that to a certain extent I succeeded in convincing many.

[Nadav] So that there were indirect contacts between you and Husayn through members of the International?

[Peres] I am sure you do not expect me to answer this question at all.

[Golan] Thank you.

## AFGHANISTAN

### NEW TIMES DECRIES BRZEZINSKI VISIT TO PAKISTAN

BK141149 Kabul NEW TIMES in English 6 Feb 80 p 2 BK

[Editorial: "Mr. Brzezinski, Beware of Consequences"]

[Text] Mr. Brzezinski's visit to Pakistan comes at a time when the progressive world has unanimously shown indignation and rebuff over the increasing involvement of imperialism in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

Using of late increasingly the legend of a threat from Afghanistan, the military generals of Pakistan gave a red carpet welcome to the "traders of armaments." Mr. Carter's envoys Security Advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski and Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher helped the Pakistani generals chalk out anti-Afghan strategy. The nub of the negotiations was Islamabad's bid to increase the amount of aid the United States is prepared to give Pakistan to meet the hypothetical threat from across its borders.

The Americans seem to be outgunned by the Pakistani generals who are using a "double eduged knife" in their quest to exploit the situation and squeeze more aid from the United States and its allies to ward off the so-called Soviet threat. Pakistan has no clean chit in its military strategy. Its three adventures on the Indian borders are a good proof. If the Pentagon heeds to Pakistan's greed to boost its already swelling arsenals a fourth invasion of India must be round the corner.

Brzezinski and his men have brought to General Zia a package of $400 million to turn Pakistan into an arsenal, with a vile wish of pitting Islamabad against its neighbours and see from the White House the "fireworks". But General Zia not just does not accept this "small amount" but describes it as "peanuts". To be sure of success in his adventures across the borders and interference in other countries' affairs the "spoiled child" of U.S. imperialism wants the 1959 Islamabad-Washington defence agreement to be turned into a full-blooded treaty.

Mr. Brzezinski is bent towards disrupting the regional and world peace. His fiery statements inciting Pakistan to do the impossible have added more fuel to the fire ignited by reaction and imperialism. Visiting Pashtun and Baluch tribal areas he is quoted as saying, "The American people admire your fight and we are sure you will succeed". Such irresponsible statements fall short of reducing tension and instead are close to an undeclared war against soverign Afghanistan.

Whatever statements Mr. Brzezinski may make one thing is crystal clear: That is Pakistan can never desist from adventuring into the territory of its neighbours. It has a history for this and Mrs Gandhi well assessed the situation when she said, "Today the world has moved closer to a nuclear confrontation and the West was turning Pakistan into an arsenal".

Special envoy of Mr Carter to New Delhi Clark Clifford must have cut a sorry figure on hearing Mrs Gandhi say the misery of the Afghan people would only be prolonged if armed bandits continued to be trained and provided with bases across the border in Pakistan. A crushing blow to Clifford's mission to Delhi came in these words of Mrs Gandhi, "billions and billions of dollars have been asked for. Hundreds of millions have already been committed to Pakistan as military aid by the United States. Other powers are persuaded to make their contribution to convert Pakistan into an arsenal".

Similarly, Lord Carrington too returned empty-handed from India and at 10 Downing Street Mrs Thatcher must be a disappointed lady.

Mr Brzezinski has also visited Saudi Arabia with crocodile tears in his eyes for Muslims' cause and a bowl in his hand for petrodollars in return for military hardware to Pakistan. In fact, the United States and its allies lose nothing in arming Pakistan and anti-revolutionaries, the Saudi exchequer and reactionaries foot the bills of some old patens and outdated sabres, in the name of aid to the so-called Afghan refugees.

KARACHI: PAKISTANI JOURNALIST REPORTEDLY ARRESTED IN KABUL

BK141622 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[Text] According to a report by ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, a Pakistani journalist, Mukhtar Hassan, who was in Kabul reporting on the situation in Afghanistan, has been arrested by Afghan authorities. The agency, referring to an official source in Islamabad, said that the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul was in touch with the Afghan authorities, seeking the release of the journalists.

SOVIETS CONTINUING AIRLIFT OF TROOPS INTO COUNTRY

BK141221 Hong Kong AFP in English 1203 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[By Erwan Jourand]

[Text] Islamabad, 14 Feb (AFP)--Soviet troops and equipment are continuing to pour into Afghanistan and are plunging even deeper into the countryside, correspondents in Kabul have reported. Significant numbers are some 90 kms (50 miles) from the Khyber Pass, the historic route leading into Pakistan, and Afghanistan regions bordering the Pakistan province of Baluchistan, it was learned in Pakistan.

Journalists in Kabul have reported no hint of troop withdrawals in reaction to calls for an Olympics boycott or the widespread disapproval of the intervention expressed in the non-communist world.

A continuing airlift of troops and equipment, though smaller than the initial expeditionary force 6 weeks ago, is fueling the growing involvement, newsmen have reported. Western journalists who have managed to reach northern Afghanistan areas near the Soviet border said that Soviet troops are also strengthening their grip on this mountainous stronghold of Muslim guerrilla activity.

Meanwhile, informed sources in Kabul said that Soviet leaders have placed a high priority on reconstructing the Afghan Army and on making the Soviet-backed regime appear more presentable. Journalists have reported seeing Afghan soldiers returning from training in the Soviet Union. Observers said the Soviets will need at least some help from Afghan units in the fight against the insurgents. But the Soviets so far have not relied heavily on the more than 100,000-strong Afghan Army, leaving them tasks of guarding secondary positions. Many troops were disarmed after the coup in December. According to some witnesses, entire sections of the army have joined the rebellion, often bringing arms with them.

Diplomatic sources in Kabul said the Soviets hope a restructured Afghan Army can take over in the cities and undertake "pacification" operations in pro-rebel areas. Some analysts said the Soviets may try to restrict the rebels in their mountainous enclaves and keep them out of the urban and economic centers. In this view, the Soviets would then move to create an Afghan Government, now hardly existing, and to consolidate its power.

The Soviets might then try to improve the Kabul regime's image by introducing a nationalist military figure, such as General Abdol Qader, or a liberal political figure into the government. Observers consider the present regime politically weak. These observers believe that the last two Marxist regimes similarly had only small popular support and relied on the minimal political-administrative structure provided by the People's Democratic Party and the Khalq and Parcham factions of the communist movement.

Their weaknesses in the face of Muslim insurgency spurred the initial Soviet intervention, observers said. They added that the similar vulnerability of the present regime could lead the Soviets to keep their troops in Afghanistan.

REBELS DOWN SOVIET-MADE HELICOPTER IN KONARHA PROVINCE

BK151016 Hong Kong AFP in English 1005 GMT 15 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, 15 Feb (AFP)--Afghan rebels shot down a helicopter yesterday in fighting against Afghan troops that lasted nearly four hours, rebel spokesman said here. He said a series of clashes took place in the mountains above the town of Jalalabad in Konarha Province. The mujahedeen (Islamic fighters) had carried out an operation against the Jalalabad airport in the last few days.

That town is 90 kilometres (60 miles) from the border on the road from Pakistan to Kabul. Mountainous Konarha Province seems to be a hotbed of Moslem resistance against the Soviet-backed government.

A Soviet-made helicopter made a forced landing after being hit yesterday, the spokesman said. But the rebels were forced to retreat and were unable to verify if the crew were Russians or Afghans.

The latest clashes and previous rebel reports in the last few days might indicate that government troops were on the offensive in that bastion near the border, undoubtedly with the aid of Soviet military advisers. The Afghan troops seem to be trying to "mop up" rebels before snow melts next spring. The thaw would be much more favourable to the rebels than the frigid winter is, military experts say.

The rebels yesterday reported continued fighting the last few days against Soviet troops in northern Afghanistan near the Soviet border in the Kataghan district and Badakhshan province--in particular near the strategic road linking Kabul to the Soviet Union through Salang Kowtal-e Pass in the Hindu Kush mountains.

The rebels also said they have received confirmation of an Afghan troops rebellion in a barracks at Cargha near Kabul that Soviet soldiers swiftly crushed, as reported by Western diplomats in the capital. The rebel spokesman said news he had received from Kabul did not explain exactly what had happened at that barracks.

## BANGLADESH

ISI REPORTS ON TALKS WITH INDIA

BK131528 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1504 GMT 13 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Bangladesh has agreed with India that the situation in Afghanistan should not be allowed to be accentuated to become threat to peace in the region. It should be defused.

According to PTI, Bangladesh subscribes to the objective of India for defusing the situation in Afghanistan; its apppoach could be different. He [as received] said Bangladesh has taken a definite position against the Soviet action in Afghanistan at the UN Security Council and the Islamic foreign ministers conference at Islamabad. Kibria [Bangladesh foreign secretary] said his country is of the view that Soviet troops must withdraw from Afghanistan.

Talks Conclude

BK141632 Dacca Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The 3-day India-Bangladesh talks at the foreign secretary level concluded in Dacca today with both sides agreeing to certain decisions on bilateral issues.

After the third and final round of talks this morning, the Bangladesh foreign secretary told newsmen that the both sides had frank discussions on wide-ranging issues, both regional and bilateral. He said regional matters, including the situation in Afghanistan, were discussed. He said the position of Bangladesh and India on this issue is well known and the talks have helped in clarifying the understanding of these issues by the two sides. It was felt at the meeting that efforts for peace and stability so important for economic development should be continued.

The foreign secretary said discussions on bilateral issues have led to a number of decisions. It has been agreed that the Joint Rivers Commission will begin a 3-day meeting in New Delhi on the 27th of this month. Both sides felt that this meeting will be able to move forward in finding a long-term solution to the problem of augmentation of the dry-season flow of the Ganges.

On the maritime boundary, both sides have agreed to hold a meeting in Dacca in the first helf of April this year.

On the boundary agreement signed in 1974, which has not been ratified by India till now, the foreign secretary said a meeting at the secretary level will be held at the end of April this year to find a solution of implementation. Trade between the two countries will be reviewed in a meeting in New Delhi next month.

On the economic issue, the secretary said there will be other contacts between the two countries at the technical level.

The Indian external affairs secretary, who was present during the news conference, said they are going back home satisfied.

INDIA

SPOKESMAN CLARIFIES JOINT STATEMENT WITH SOVIETS

BK141525 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1500 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

["Official Spokesman Clarification on India-Soviet Joint Statement"--ISI Headline]

[Text] The spokesman reiterated the significance of the joint statement and pointed out the main points in it. The first was that the talks were held in an atmosphere of mutual trust and it was more than mere platitude.

He said that there was satisfaction on the fact that leaders of the two countries had an opportunity to meet and give detailed briefing to each other for the first time after the developments in Afghanistan. There was agreement between India and the Soviet Union that de-escalating the crisis and stabilising the situation and the creation of an atmosphere where the boundaries between the two countries [as received] in the region would be boundaries of peace, friendship and cooperation. On this there was agreement.

The Soviet side, on being briefed at the highest level about the consultations India has had with countries of this region and others, felt that India is making and is capable of making a meaningful contribution towards defusing the crisis. Apart from coming [as received] the Indian initiative in terms of these consultations the Soviet Union has indicated that it considered it essential and useful to be in continuous touch with each other so that the efforts made by the two countries to restore normalcy in the region come to fruition.

There was also agreement that developments in the region cannot be viewed and assessed in a vacuum or without a sequential perspective. The developing situation is bound to effect events in India's neighbourhood. There was agreement that endeavour would be on the part of both to work for peace and stability in the area.

Gromyko called on the prime minister this morning and briefly touched upon the next week's visit of the Deputy Prime Minister Arkhipov who is the cochairman of the India-Soviet commission and is due here next week to discuss further economic, technical and cultural cooperation between the two countries. The Soviet Union and India have also agreed to see if some Indians could not be trained in space travel.

The visit served the purpose for which was envisaged, the spokesman said. It helped us to understand each other's concerns and assessments.

Question: How at the end of the talks would you say what has come out to defuse the situation? [sentence as received]

Answer: The spokesman said that both sides agreed that the situation should be defused and for that optimum conditions should be fulfilled. Many things were happening in the world which impinge on the Afghan situation. For instance, bases in Somalia and Oman, etc. We have fair intelligence that the quantum of military buildup had jumped up considerably in Diego Garcia and the U.S. naval presence in the Indian Ocean, including nuclear war heads. Then we have powers who are openly saying that they would train Afghan rebels and arm them. These do not contribute to the optimum conditions that have to be fulfilled for defusing the situation.

The spokesman said we were going to have further discussions apart from the ones already taking place and in that context we have a visit planned from Hungary and by a special envoy from Japan. Some other such visits were also in the pipelines.

The spokesman said that the Yugoslavia foreign minister visit which was due has been cancelled because of President Tito's illness. He hoped that this visit will take place when Tito recovers.

The process of such consultations does not mean emergence of concrete measures, he said.

India does not agree with the presence of foreign troops in any country and is continuing its international discussions in this connection to see that these troops are withdrawn. The Soviet Union has not disagreed with that but there may be differences in interim perceptions as to how it is to be achieved.

The official spokesman said that Mr Clark Clifford's visit was extremely useful because he had detailed assessment from the President of the United States which had prompted the country to take some steps. We might not have agreed with this but we conveyed our own perceptions to President Carter, the spokesman said.

[Question] What does India expect to defuse the situation?

Answer: It is not we but the whole world has to wait and watch what the big powers would do. Gromyko gave a categorical assurance to Pakistan in his dinner speech yesterday of its territorial integrity both from the Soviet Union and Afghanistan. There is a competing action by the superpowers in the region and a chain of events had led to the present crisis.

GOVERNMENT READY TO EXPORT MILITARY AIRCRAFT

BK150854 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Feb 80 BK

[Text] The state owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited [HAL] which meets the country's defense and civil aviation requirements is now posed for the export of helicopters and fighter and trainer aircraft. A spokesman of the HAL told PTI that inquiries have been received from various countries for the products of HAL. He said efforts are being made to procure overseas orders, particularly from the developing countries. The spokesman said HAL plans to manufacture a new type of transport aircraft for the Indian Air Force in collaboration with the Soviet Union.

MEETING CALLED TO DEFINE FOREIGN NATIONALS IN ASSAM

BK150336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 15 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpts] The center is calling a meeting of the All-India political parties, regional parties of Assam and various youth organizations to determine the definition of a foreign national. An assurance to this effect was given by the union home minister, Gyani Zail Singh, to a delegation representing the national council of the All-India Students Federation in New Delhi yesterday. Earlier, the delegation called on the chief election commissioner, Mr Shakhder and urged him to take steps for defusing the situation in Assam. In a memorandum, the delegation demanded setting up of a machinery consisting of people's representatives for revising the voters' list in the state.

The All India Radio correspondent says the home minister's decision comes in the wake of the center's acceptance of the Assan students' major demands including the one on the definition of foreign nationals. At the time of accepting these demands earlier this month, Gyani Zail Singh had urged the students to help restore normalcy in the state, which he said, is necessary for their implementation.

Meanwhile, the union home minister has appreciated the gesture shown by the All-Assam Students Union in suspending the agitation. He expressed the hope that everyone in the state will realize the agitations were not necessary redressal of grievances.

The All-Assam Students Union had decided to postpone picketing throughout the state from yesterday until the 24th of this month.

## PAKISTAN

### HAQ STRESSES NATION'S STRONG POSITION IN HYDERABAD SPEECH

BK141252 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[Excerpt] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said both internally and on the international platform, Pakistan is in a strong position and if the situation continued, insha Allah [God willing] there will be nothing for us to fear. He was talking to the councillors of Hyderabad division after inaugurating the Maidan railway bridge on River Indus at Kotri today.

The president said that the extraordinary meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers conference in Islamabad has proved that Pakistan is not alone and has the backing and support of the entire Muslim world. He said the conference, which assembled at such a short notice, also proved that the Muslim world can rally round if ever a problem demands a united stand.

The president said it was a matter of great satisfaction and encouragement that the people of Pakistan have (?great) patriotism and love for Islam and they are prepared to make every sacrifice to safeguard their country and their faith. This, he emphasized, is the basic element of their stand.

## SRI LANKA

### PRESIDENT RESHUFFLES SIX MINISTERIAL POSTS

BK141526 Hong Kong AFP in English 1518 GMT 14 Feb 80 BK

[Text] Colombo 14 Feb (AFP)--President J.R. Rayewardene today reshuffled the portfolios handled by six of his ministers in a bid to enforce a more effective administration during the remaining second half of the six-year term of his government. President Jayewardene who already held two portfolios--defence and plan implementation--took over three more important subjects, higher education and the two state organisations dealing with nationalised tea and rubber plantations.

(?In) today's reshuffle the president also handed to the Prime Minister Ranasinghe Premadasa the subject of highways, considered vital for the country's development programme. Mr. Premadasa takes over the new subject in addition to the portfolio of local government, housing and construction already held by him.

Observers commented that a significant feature of Mr. Jayewardene's mid-term cabinet reshuffle was that he did not drop any of his 26 cabinet ministers or add new faces to the cabinet. Alone of the important changes made in the reshuffle was that the president appointed the youngest member in his cabinet, 31-year old Ranil Wickremasinghe, as minister of education handling primary and secondary education dealing with 3 1/2 million students, 140,000 teachers and 10,000 schools. This is in addition to the youth affairs and employment portfolio held by him. The Minister of Education and Higher Education Nissanka Wijeratne [word indistinct] to the Ministry of Justice replacing K.W. Devanayagam who was appointed minister of home affairs.

The president created a new subject of energy and gave it to D.B. Wijetunga who will also continue to handle power and posts and telecommunications. The subject of highways which had also been dealt by D.B. Wijetunga was handed over to the prime minister. Mr. Jayewardene also appointed a new minister of non-cabinet rank in charge of indigenous medicine and also a number of deputy ministers.